

# LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

NOVEMBER 17, 2006

## Post-war art displayed at The Contemporary Museum

**Story and Photos by Christine Cabalo**  
*Photojournalist*

“Dreaming of a Speech Without Words: The Paintings and Early Objects of H.C. Westermann” is now on exhibit at The Contemporary Museum through Sunday. Known mostly for his sculptures, the exhibition features Westermann’s paintings and paper sketches as well as his more famous sculpted figures.

Michael Rooks, museum curator, said the traveling display includes 17 paintings, 15 sculptures, seven painted objects, and selected paper works.

The collection includes the artist’s earlier and lesser-known paintings, some with original frames Westermann made. Rooks said crafting of the frames is significant and even part of the artist’s humor in his work. In one featured painting, “Madonna of the Rocks” the joke relies on the viewers noticing that his Madonna painting is surrounded by a frame attached to rocks. The piece is meant to be a satire of Leonardo Da Vinci’s famous painting of the same name.

The former Marine previously worked as a carpenter. Rooks said Westermann’s artwork was made from common industrial materials he had access to.

“They’re very paradoxical,” said Rooks. “They’re very mysterious, but they’re attrac-

tive because of their craftsmanship, and they relate to human issues and concerns.”

Rooks titled the exhibition from a passage in Hermann Hesse’s “Steppenwolf” about wanting to express abstract ideas that others can understand. He remarked that throughout Westermann’s work, the artist attempts to articulate feelings and emotions that are difficult to describe. He said the collection showcased the personal struggles Westermann endured after his combat experiences.

“It has to do a great deal with him becoming an artist,” said Rooks. “In order to do this, he has to process and deal with his past experiences. The most traumatic experiences were pretty much related: The death of his mother, his mother’s desire for him to be an officer, and his experiences at war.”

Westermann served as a gunner aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and was stationed on Oahu and fought in several Pacific-arena battles during World War II. He later reenlisted in the Marine Corps as an infantryman during the Korean War. In-between his service in the Marine Corps, Westermann studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

“For me it’s a profound sense of wanting to be an artist, wanting to do something with your life and figuring out how to do that,” said Rooks. “Even though you were never

really given the tools to figure that out. It’s like being thrown into a war and not knowing how to cope with that but dealing with it day by day; then inventing yourself as a service member or inventing yourself as an artist.”

Tracking down Westermann’s work was a challenging process, since he died in 1981, said Rooks. Many of the pieces featured in the exhibit were gifts the former Marine gave to friends. One item is a birthday drawing he had given to his landlady. The curator said Westermann was very generous and caring of his friends, even though he struggled to make ends meet.

“The work seems to me to be very emotional, because it’s about that intense desire to become an artist and working through it,” said Rooks. “It’s about making work that’s not so successful and making work that is successful; then not letting the unsuccessful work discourage you or get carried away with the work that is successful.”

The Contemporary Museum is located at 2411 Makiki Heights Drive and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., and closed on Mondays. Admission for adults is \$5. With a valid ID, students and seniors who are 62 and older are admitted for \$3. There is no charge for children 12 and younger.



Made by H.C. Westermann in 1961, this sculpture is entitled, “Trophy for a Gasoline Apollo.” The piece is made from materials that include empty glass soda bottles, wood, and plastic bumpers.



“Mad House” is one of many crafted works made by H.C. Westermann using wood, created in 1958. More than 38 inches tall, the wooden house includes a miniature partially transparent attic housing a toy soldier.



Judie Malmgren, museum docent, closely examines one of Westermann’s oil paintings, “Beautiful Isle of Somewhere” made in 1953. The exhibit at the museum displays Westermann’s lesser-known paintings with original frames crafted by the artist.



Michael Rooks, curator of The Contemporary Museum, stands in front of Westermann’s “Where Angels Fear to Tread.” Rooks spent two years putting together the new exhibit that features pieces borrowed from private collections.



“The Reluctant Acrobat,” painted in 1949, is one of the self-portraits exhibited in the Westermann collection. In addition to working as an artist, the former Marine was also a skilled performing acrobat.



# MCCS Briefs

www.mccshawaii.com

**Kahuna's Recreation Center**  
254-7660/7661

**Monday Night Football** pre-game begins at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Offered during the game only are beverage specials and 25-cent wings.

**Hot Country Wednesday** features Dita Holifield and Red Handed.

**Kahuna's Recreation Center and Lava Java** is now serving fresh sausage, ham and egg bagel sandwiches from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily.

**Staff NCO Club**  
254-5481

**The SNCO Club** will be closed today in observance of Veterans Day.

**Monday Night Football** in the Rocker Room begins at 6:30 p.m. Festivities will include half-time games and king and queen of the quarter recliners. Pupus are available for purchase until half time.

**Wednesdays mean wing night** starting at 4:30 p.m. Cost is 35 cents a wing for those who dine in. Rocker Room grill menu items are available at 5 p.m.

**Fairways to Go** is offered seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call 254-5592 to place an order.

**The Officers' Club**  
254-7650

**Today's Pasta Lunch Buffet** is offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Wednesday's Member Appreciation** hours are from 5 to 7 p.m. Show your membership card for half-priced burgers and specially priced domestic and import beverages. Full prices will be charged after 7 p.m.

**Mongolian barbecue** is offered Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the Lanai Ballroom. Present your card for member discount. Reservations are recommended.

**The monthly seafood buffet** returns Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Menu items include snow crab legs and carved prime rib.

**All Hands**  
**Exceptional Family Member Program Support Meeting**

The Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at the Key Volunteer/LINKS building from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This month's meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 27. Call 257-7783 for more information.

**Thanksgiving Turkey-to-Go Dinner** returns to the SNCO Club and Sunset Lanai on Camp H.M. Smith. Place a telephone order today and pick up your complete turkey or ham dinner on Thanksgiving Day.

The dinner's main course includes herb and garlic roast turkey with gravy, or honey-baked ham with Hawaiian pineapple sauce (both 10-12 lbs).

Sides feature: cornbread, Portuguese sausage and chestnut stuffing, roast garlic mashed potatoes, corn O'Brien, cranberry sauce, rolls and butter, and pumpkin pie.

Price for The Officers' Club, SNCO Club members, and E-1 to E-5 are: Turkey dinner \$69.95, ham dinner \$84.95, turkey and ham combo \$105.95. Nonmembers add \$10 to any option. Prepayment is required today.

Call 254-5592 or 254-5481 to place an order.

# Community event: Bishop Museum's Shop Pacifica decks the halls

**For artists**

- Tutuvi, famous for her bold Hawaiian block prints;
- Janet Holaday, whose original tropical kitchen towels and tablecloths will make any holiday table sparkle in true Hawaiian style fashion;
- Copper welding artist Frank Andrews will have a special selection of his Hawaiian Petroglyph sculptures on hand; and
- Popular hand-dyed Gathering Bag by Monkey Business of Maui, a fashion must for someone special on your holiday list.

**For book lovers**

- Akua Hawaii: Hawaiian Gods & Their Stories, which was awarded the "Best Children's Book on Hawaiian Culture" and "Overall Best in Illustration" by the Hawaii Book Publisher's Association
- The unforgettable, Pua Polu, awarded an honorable mention for "Best Children's Illustrative or Photographic Book."
- Lono and the Magical Land Beneath the Sea is a beautifully illustrated story-book that explores traditional Hawaiian food plants and the Makahiki season.
- Collectors on your shopping list can take a nostalgic look back at Hawaii's most famous sport of surfing in Surfing: Historic Images from Bishop Museum Archives.
- There's also LUA: Art of the Hawaiian Warrior Collector's Edition book, offered

in a limited slipcase edition.

**For food lovers:**

Shop Pacifica will feature rare Hawaiian organic white honey, a wide selection of jams, including Poha Berry Jam, Lychee Moon Butter Spread, Liliko'i Gold Butter Spread, and more.

**For bargain hunters**

Shop Pacifica's holiday sale kicks off Nov. 24 and continues through Nov. 26. Shoppers will be offered a 30 percent discount on all Bishop Museum logo items. Stocking stuffers couldn't be easier to find when choosing items such as Polo shirts, key chains, coffee mugs, and sculptured notebooks. And don't forget to indulge yourself in the popular "12 Days Before Christmas" shopping spree, when you will be offered a 25 percent discount on selected items.

**For Everyone**

An annual membership provides free admission to the Museum, Hawaii Maritime Center, Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, and sneak previews of exhibits, free or discounted admission to special events, discounts at Shop Pacifica, and other restaurants and retailers around town.

Included is a subscription to the beautiful Museum's quarterly newsletter, Ka'Elele. Memberships begin at \$35 to \$60.



# Book review: 'No True Glory'



**Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**  
Combat Correspondent

In Bing West's "No True Glory: A Frontline Account of the Battle for Fallujah," the author gives firsthand account of what life was like in the year

2004 when Marines fought in one of the most significant battles in Iraq.

The prologue captures the reader's attention as the author describes the killing of four civilian contractors at what was called the "Brooklyn Bridge." Here, West describes how a news reporter, who was looking for a story, found one by listening to a lance corporal. When the reporter asked "higher ups" if something had happened (at the bridge), they said they hadn't heard anything, only to hear the news a few minutes later. It is because of this that West said he will always keep his ear in the "lance corporals' network."

In the first few chapters, West gives the reader background information about the city before and during the Iraq invasion. West describes the political viewpoints the locals had after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and the rise in insur-

gency. He also talks about how commanders of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division had tried to reason with the town's leaders to put a stop to the increase in attacks against coalition forces.

After being unsuccessful in negotiating with local leaders, the U.S. Army gave control of the area to the Marines, who had been developing ideas of how to control the rise of insurgency.

The book describes how Marines conducted night raids and held negotiations with the Iraqi people to put a stop to violence in the area. However, the final straw of negotiations came after an attack killed nine Marines from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's "Lava Dogs" of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

It is at this point in the book commanders devise a plan to take the city and end the violence.

West's book describes significant points in the battle, including the so-called "House from Hell," where Marines were pinned in a house and involved in close combat with insurgents. It also gives accounts of the well-known story about Lava Dog's Sgt. Rafael Peralta, who saved the lives of his fellow Marines by tucking a grenade under his body.

At the end of this book, West describes what Fallujah is like today.

This book is difficult to put down once you start reading. West does not make this book into your ordinary everyday history book by just stating facts; he gets the firsthand experience from the Marines who fought hard in this battle.

This book is recommended for any Marine who wants to learn more about Operation Al Fajr and the fight to take control of Fallujah.

# Movie review: 'Hard Candy'



**Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino**  
Combat Correspondent



**Reheat Score: 2 out of 4 microwaves**

*Editors note: Each week Hawaii Marine's own film critic Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino will provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday.*

*The rating system requires some explanation before you get started. If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of "microwaves" on a scale of one to four to rate its "reheat factor."*

*If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.*

*In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.*

Director David Slade's feature film debut "Hard Candy" makes an honest attempt at tackling the controversial subject of pedophilia through the eyes of both predator and the prey, but falls short when the film takes a turn for the worse, losing the most powerful tools good stories have – audience identification with its characters.

The film opens with two people chatting on the Internet. As the flirtatious conversation heats up, one of the characters suggests they meet in person at a local coffee shop. Enter the characters: a 14-year-old girl named Hayley (Ellen Page) and

Jeff, (Patrick Wilson) a 30-something fashion photographer. Small talk ensues, and the tandem makes their way back to Jeff's apartment with the mutual understanding that there will be some heavy flirting and possibly an impromptu photo shoot.

From there, the viewer quickly finds out Jeff has a history of getting a little too personal with his subjects, all of whom are underage girls, during his "photo shoots," and Hayley isn't as innocent as she looks either.

Much like the 1996 film "Freeway," "Hard Candy" attempts to retell the classic "Little Red Riding Hood" in a modern era. Although the cinematography and camera work were compelling, the story itself was stripped down to the bare essentials and leaves the viewers with a bad taste in their mouths.

Some good did come from the film, however. Ellen Page's breakout performance as the brainy, sadistic teen is not to be ignored. Expect great things from this young talent throughout her career.

The idea for "Hard Candy"

supposedly sprang from a social phenomenon that was occurring in Japan, where it was reported that a large group of Japanese girls were using Internet chat rooms to lure old, lonely businessmen to remote locations where they could rob them.

First-time screenwriter Brian Wilson took this premise and created a story that was more about shock factor than human emotions involved in such a sensitive subject. A playwright by trade, Wilson uses his ability to write something requiring only a few characters and limited settings. However, what may work brilliantly on a stage, doesn't translate so well to an hour and a half of film.

This is undoubtedly a stepping stone for Slade, as he has already started the long process of making a name for himself in a town that is known for forgetting names a few minutes after they hear them.

If you enjoy psychological thrillers, I would recommend seeing this film – but only once. Make sure you rent it, because you'll be stuck with a movie that you'll never want to watch again if you buy it.

# MOVIE TIME

**Prices:** Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

**Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Everyone's Hero (G)	Today at 7:15 p.m.
Flyboys (PG13)	Today at 9:45 p.m.
Gridiron Gang (PG13)	Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
Jet Li's Fearless (PG13)	Saturday at 9:45 p.m.
Everyone's Hero (G)	Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Jet Li's Fearless (PG13)	Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
The Black Dahila (R)	Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Jet Li's Fearless (PG13)	Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Gridiron Gang (PG13)	Friday at 9:45 p.m.



# ON THE MENU

## AT ANDERSON HALL

<b>Friday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Oven roast beef Baked tuna & noodles Steamed rice French fried cauliflower Vegetable combo Brown gravy Chilled horseradish Banana coconut cream pie Chocolate chip cookies Carrot cake Cream cheese frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/strawberry gelatin Specialty bar: Southern Meal  <i>Dinner</i> Sauerbraten Baked knockwurst w/sauerkraut Scalloped potatoes Noodles Jefferson Green beans with mushrooms Creole summer squash Brown gravy Desserts: Same as lunch	<b>Monday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Teriyaki chicken Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes Steamed rice Simmered carrots Simmered lima beans Brown gravy Pumpkin pie Chocolate cookies Easy choc. cake w/chocolate butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/strawberry gelatin Specialty bar: Pasta  <i>Dinner</i> Roast turkey Oven roast beef Pork fried rice Parsley buttered potatoes Green beans with mushrooms Simmered corn Brown gravy Desserts: Same as lunch	Grilled cheese sandwich French fried okra Cauliflower au gratin Pineapple sauce Bread pudding w/lemon sauce Peanut butter brownie Banana cake with butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Orange/raspberry gelatin Specialty bar: Hot dog/sausage  <i>Dinner</i> Baked stuffed pork chops Turkey pot pie Calico corn Simmered peas and carrots Steamed rice Mashed potatoes Brown gravy
<b>Saturday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Grilled T-bone steak Pork chops Mexicana Mashed potatoes Spanish rice Mexican corn Peas & mushrooms Brown gravy Cheesecake w/cherry topping Fruit nut bars Chocolate/vanilla cream pudding Lemon/lemon gelatin Yellow cake	<b>Tuesday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Sweet Italian sausage Veal parmesan Cheese ravioli Spaghetti noodles Simmered asparagus Italian blend vegetables Meat sauce Strawberry glazed cream pie Brownies Devil's food cake w/mocha buttercream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Cherry/lime gelatin Specialty bar: Taco & Deli  <i>Dinner</i> Swiss steak with tomato sauce Lemon baked fish Lyonnaise potatoes Steamed rice Southern style green beans Vegetable combo Brown gravy Desserts: Same as lunch	<b>Thursday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Cantonese spareribs Baked tuna & noodles Shrimp fried rice Corn on the cob Club spinach Corn bread dressing Brown gravy Lemon chiffon pie Snicker-doodle cookies German chocolate cake Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/strawberry gelatin Specialty bar: Deli & Hot sandwich of the day  <i>Dinner</i> Swedish meatballs Caribbean chicken breast Steamed rice Paprika butter potatoes Simmered brussels sprouts Simmered summer squash Chicken gravy Desserts: Same as lunch
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Beef pot pie Baked ham Baked macaroni & cheese Club spinach Cauliflower au gratin Cream gravy Bread pudding with lemon sauce Vanilla cream pie Vanilla cookies Pineapple upside-down cake Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/orange gelatin	<b>Wednesday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Baked ham Chili macaroni Candied sweet potatoes	

# Picture perfect



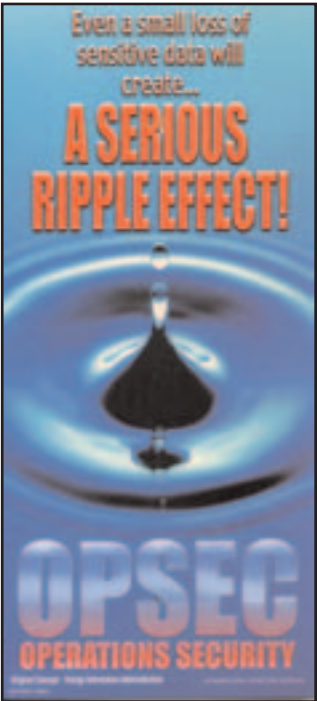
Wendy O'Connell

Winners of Mokapu Elementary School's "Red Ribbon Week" poster contest: Kaitlyn Wear (left), Kindergarten; Tanae Taylor, First Grade; Kiersten O'Connell, Third Grade; Audrey Bell, Fourth Grade; and Makayla Monceballez, Fifth Grade pose with their winning entries. The children were asked to submit a poster that displays their commitment to a drug-free lifestyle during Red Ribbon Week, which promotes drug awareness and a drug-free environment. The posters were put on display outside the children's classrooms, and members of the Parent Teacher's Association judged the posters.

## MARINE MAKEPONO

HAWAIIAN FOR "MARINE BARGAINS"

- Autos**  
**2001 Dodge Pick-up, 8** cylinder, 5 speed, air conditioner, alarm, CD system, 5,800 miles, \$6,500 or best offer.  
Call Ronald at 286-0690 or 232-9457.
- Treadmill Norditrack Exp 1000, like new,** \$350; and large refrigerator \$200, good condition. Free delivery. Call 254-2656.
- Wanted**  
**Marines wanted for odd jobs and yard work.** Hours are flexible. Call John at 235-5466.
- The deadline for submitting ads to the Hawaii Marine is 4 p.m. the Friday of the week prior to publication.*  
*Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office, located in Building 216 aboard Kaneohe Bay.*
- Misc.**  
**Various Little Tikes slides** \$15 to \$150 obo; Little Tikes extra large toy box with pink cover \$20; other outside toys available; Dreamer Design double stroller \$175; Pack and Play \$40; 33 extra large patio stones square shape \$50 for all. Call 254-9363.
- Tan sofa, like new,** \$200. Wooden dinning room table and 4 chairs, \$60. Call 254-0565.



# Commissary Shopping: Make the Most of It

Deb Trzcinski  
**LIFELines**

Milk, bread, eggs, and cheese. Such a short list — only worth a quick trip to the grocer up the street. You'll breeze through in a flash. "What's an extra couple of bucks?" you say, knowing these items would've cost less if you had planned better and bought them at the commissary. But an extra couple of bucks

multiplied by several quick trips up the street equals a lot of lost savings. The commissary isn't just another grocery store. Its purpose is to serve as an additional benefit to military members and their families by offering lower prices on grocery items. Take advantage of this perk by planning your trips and making the most of your commissary shopping. **Commissary Characteristics** Knowing what to expect is the

beginning of your preparation. You'll find most commissaries are similar in set up and floor plan. The line of products is fairly standard, depending on the size of the store. Other features:  
\* No sales tax.  
\* A five percent surcharge is used to maintain stores.  
\* Baggers work for tips only. Their services are optional and the amount of a tip is at your discretion.

\* ID checks. Depending on the current security status in a your area, most commissaries now have ID checks at the register only. Guests are allowed in the facility when accompanied by an authorized patron.  
\* Checkout lines are designated with "Head of Line" privileges for those in uniform during lunch time.  
\* Check-writing policies. You'll need to write the member's duty telephone number and rank on the

check. You no longer have to include a Social Security number.  
\* Great savings. You might spend less on an item or two elsewhere, but your overall grocery bill will be much lower when you shop at the commissary.  
Writing a list with the help of your store floor plan will make your trip easier. It'll increase your chances of sticking to your list, which will add to your savings.



# Family relaxes with Marines, says goodbye

**Sgt. Sara A. Carter**  
*Combat Correspondent*

*Editors note: This is part three of a three-part series documenting a family's trip to Hawaii to attend a memorial ceremony for their eldest son who was killed in Iraq.*

**Oct. 21: A little fun with the Marines**

With all of the official ceremonies completed, Cpl. Andres “A.J.” Aguilar Jr.’s family took a day to do something fun with five of the Marines from A.J.’s unit, and traveled to the Polynesian Cultural Center.

This was not the first time the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Marines spent time with the Aguilar family away from the base. A.J.’s brother and sister, Alex, 18, and Andrea, 17, and sister Amanda spent whatever free time they had with the Marines who were closest to A.J. They had become a family during the last four days.

While taking in the sights at the Center, everyone chatted with each other and joked like most siblings do. They seemed to enjoy each other’s company, stopping frequently throughout the park to take a group picture.

Soon the night came, and the Aguilar family returned to their hotel and Marines to their base.



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

**After all the formal ceremonies for their son and brother Cpl. Andres "A.J." Aguilar, who was attached to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and was killed in action April 2 were finished, the Aguilar family spent Oct. 22 enjoying the sights and participating in a dance at the Polynesian Cultural Center.**

**Oct. 22: Saying goodbye**

Once again the Marines were back at the airport in their service uniform, this time to say goodbye to their new family.

Hugs were exchanged, this time they seemed to be a little tighter and little longer than the hugs the family was greeted with when they first arrived. It was apparent no one wanted to let go.

Everyone told each other how much fun they had together and how great it was to finally

meet one another. The group spoke about future visits to Texas and possible trips back to Hawaii. They all told each other how much they were going to miss one another and that they were going to keep in touch.

After another round of loving hugs and more group pictures, it was time for the family to depart. As the Aguilar family headed toward the security checkpoint the Marines stood together as a group and watched the family as they walk away.

# In life, death Marine touched many lives



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

**A photo of Cpl. Andres “A.J.” Aguilar rests in front of his rifle, boots, dog tags and helmet during a memorial ceremony for him and 10 other Marines who died in Iraq.**

**Sgt. Sara A. Carter**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Many spoke highly of him. They used words like dependable, approachable, likeable, friendly, funny and confident. When he died April 2 in Iraq his family and the Marines he served with were confused and hurt.

Corporal Andres “A.J.” Aguilar Jr., who was a communications technician with Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, died when the 7-ton truck he was riding in rolled over in a flash flood near Al Asad, Iraq. He had been in the country for a little less than a month when he died.

Lance Cpl. Francisco Campos, radio operator, 3/3, said it hurt a lot of Marines when they heard A.J. had died.

A.J., a native of Victoria, Texas, joined the Marine Corps in 2002 despite pleas from his mother not to join.

“My wife tried to talk him out of joining,” said Andres Aguilar Sr. “It was something he wanted to do. Once he made the decision to join, all we could do is support him.”

After completing his initial training, he was sent to K-Bay for duty with 3/3 in March 2003, deployed to Afghanistan in 2004, and to Iraq this year.

“Corporal Aguilar was the type of Marine you didn’t need to provide guidance to,” said Lt. Col. Norman Cooling, former commanding officer, 3/3. “He knew

the important things that needed to be done and did them without being asked.”

He was a gifted communications technician and a skilled noncommissioned officer, he continued.

Cooling and the rest of the Marines who worked with A.J. said he was confident. If he was given a piece of equipment that was new or something he had never used before, he would figure out how it worked.

“Without fail, he would always figure it out,” Cooling said.

Campos, like most of the Marines from the communications section, met A.J. when he first checked in. A.J. was a lance corporal and Campos a private first class when they met nearly three years ago.

“He was a motivated Marine,” Campos said. “I really looked up to him as a mentor. He was always someone you could talk to.”

All of the Marines said they have memories of A.J. – most of which are funny. One particular story made all of his family and the Marines who spent time with him laugh.

“He had a 1991 Honda Accord that had no reverse,” Campos said as he laughed. “Everywhere we went, we had to push it to go in reverse. When we went to clubs, we would park as far away as possible so no one would see us.”

Andres said talking to the Marines from A.J.’s unit helped their family a lot. He said he felt like his son was a good friend who helped the Marines during difficult situations.

“According to the Marines, our son was

While the family waited to go through the security screening they looked back at the Marines, tears began to form in everyone’s eyes. The Aguilar’s were leaving their newly adopted sons behind and the Marines watched as their new family disappeared from sight.

A.J.’s father Andres yelled to his “sons” and blowing a kiss said, “Were going to miss you. We love you!”

**Oct. 25: After the departure**

It’s been a couple of days since the Aguilar family and the Marines went their separate ways.

“Everyone was sad to leave,” A.J.’s mother Olivia said. “It felt like we left our family.”

For all involved, the visit seemed to have been a rewarding experience.

“I’m glad that I met (the Aguilars),” said Lance Cpl. Francisco Campos, radio operator, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “It’s sad that we met them this way.”

The Aguilars and the Marines said they plan to keep in touch with each other, although some of the Marines from A.J.’s unit are getting out of the Marine Corps or moving soon.

“You are always welcome at our home,” Andres said. “You are a part of our family now and you all will always be in my prayers.”



# Navajo service members reflect on ancestry

**Christine Cabalo**  
*Photojournalist*

First celebrated in 1916, American Indian Heritage Month is now celebrated during November to reflect on the ethnicity's history. For more than 12 percent of the Navajo population 18 and older, this history includes serving in the military, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Some Marines and Sailors of Navajo descent, who are stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, said remembering their ancestry while serving is important.

Lance Corporal Murphy Begay, who grew up in Phoenix, said his decision to become a Marine was part of a family tradition. Begay noted his cousins were Marines, his brother is a Navy veteran, and his great uncle served as a World War II code talker.

A well-versed Navajo speaker, Begay was one of the service members from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment who participated in a ritual

cleansing sweat lodge before leaving for Iraq in 2004. He said sitting in a sweat lodge was relaxing and put him in the right frame of mind to enter combat.

"I was never taught the specific traditions," said Begay. "I never really learned about it before. But it's something I'd absolutely like to learn about in the future. Who wouldn't want to learn more about where they came from?"

As an infantryman, Begay participated in Operation Al Fajr, also known as Battle of Fallujah. During 1/3's later deployments to Afghanistan, he and fellow Navajo service members, Petty Officer 3rd Class Darin Holiday and Lance Cpl. Ryan Paul, ground communications organizational repairman, didn't have a chance visit each other often.

"We didn't have any sleep for the first two weeks," said Begay. "There were a lot of fire-fights and clearing things out. We spent Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's there."

Holiday, nicknamed "Doc" because he is a hospital corpsman, said he, Begay and Paul

made more of an effort to meet up since returning to MCB Hawaii. Though the three Navajo service members do not regularly practice specific Navajo rituals, he said spending time together has been a good morale booster.

"It's great to meet up," said Holiday. "Bring up old ties, family ties, culture and tradition. You feel at home, even though we're not home. It brings back that feeling of family, even though we're not with our immediate family."

Holiday said one way he remembers his ancestry while serving is by speaking to Paul and Begay in Navajo. Originally from Chinle, Ariz., the 20-year-old hospital corpsman's first language was Navajo, taking English as a foreign language when he was younger.

Paul lived in Phoenix before his family moved in with his maternal grandparents to their reservation home when he was in fifth grade. Living in Teec Nos Pos, Ariz., Paul said although he's a Christian, he's helped his family prepare for seasonal healing ceremonies.

During cookouts with other Native

American service members on base, Paul said he enjoys sharing traditional fry bread and mutton as a way to remember home. While deployed to Afghanistan, Paul said his Navajo ancestry helped him better understand other cultures.

"I've seen a lot of cultural similarities between Navajos and Afghanis," said Paul. "We don't share any specific rituals, but they seemed to live like we lived a long time ago. I noticed it – especially butchering – when they prepared meat. I've seen them butchering and they do it in a similar way. Their whole process is very similar. They look for the same things we look for, like which joints are best to break."

Although the majority of American Indians on base are Navajo, each of the service members agreed dispelling stereotypes is important.

"Tribes are all different," said Holiday. "Navajos don't wear feathers or those types of stereotypical things, and we don't live in teepees. We're really like anybody else who signs up for the military."

## Following footsteps

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Choosing what to do in life can be a difficult task for some. Out of high school, one has the opportunity to enter the work force, attend college or join the military; and for many it's not an easy decision. For Seaman Apprentice Martin L. Patrick, dental technician, 21st Dental Company, joining the Navy was just something he knew he would always do.

"My father retired out of the Navy, and my older sister is in the Navy right now," said the native of Virginia Beach, Va. "I always knew I would join one day. So far, it's been a great ride."

Growing up in Virginia, Patrick attended Bayside High School and played basketball through the years. Upon graduation in 2003, he had the opportunity to play at Norfolk State College, but ended up deciding against it.

"I had the opportunity, but wasn't sure what to go to college for yet," said the 19-year-old. "I didn't want to attend with no real direction or driving force, so after a time, I joined

the Navy and picked the dental field."

Patrick attended the Navy's basic training in the summer of 2005 and checked into Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay in February. His main responsibility is as a chair-side assistant for dental officers, providing assistance with operations and other procedures.

"Patrick has been with us since February and always gives 110 percent with everything he does," said Petty Officer 1st Class Vincent B. Simerlink, leading petty officer, 21st Dental Company. "He really has an outstanding work ethic."

"He has already received his (Fleet Marine Force Specialist Warfare pin), and has completed all his bridge training (hospital corpsman training), and is soon to enroll in college," continued Simerlink. "He is on track to really move fast and excel in the Navy."

Simerlink said Sailors are allowed 18 months to complete Fleet Marine Force Specialist Warfare qualifications, but Patrick completed his in less than 10 months.

"He receives excellent feedback

from all the 'Docs' he works with," said Simerlink, a native of Rupert, Idaho. "He is a great asset here and always gives any task his all."

Patrick was also nominated for "Blue Jacket of the Quarter" for the third quarter.

This distinction is given to an enlisted Sailor, E-1 to E-4, who is considered to be the "top performer" in his or her unit. Selection is done by nomination and Sailors must compete for the honor by going through a series of oral tests conducted by senior enlisteds and officers.

The dental technician said he is happy with his duty station in Hawaii and still enjoys playing basketball during his time off.

His future goals include attending



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

**Seaman Apprentice Martin L. Patrick, dental technician, 21st Dental Company, sits in one of the offices where he assists doctors. Patrick said he always knew he would one day join the Navy.**

college, and if he remains in the Navy, becoming an X-ray technician.

"If I get out and go to school, I will definitely stay in the medical field," said Patrick. "The Navy has already given me so much experience and the merger of the dental technicians and (hospital) corpsman has given me so much more knowledge."

Patrick said what is most enjoy-

able about his job are the experiences and the people he interacts with on a daily basis.

"I've already met so many people and gained so many friends – and experiences – through the Navy, and it has really taught me a lot," said Patrick. "Whether I choose to make it a career or not, I know it has set me up for greater success in the future."